KV FOCUS

FALL SEMESTER STARTS SEPT. 3
REGISTER NOW

A Kalamazoo Valley Community College Publication
July 2025

KalamazooVALLEY community college

ONE STOP TO START IT ALL:
ENROLLMENT EVENTS PLANNED FOR AUGUST

GET IT DONE

Did you know you can enroll in classes, meet with a counselor, complete placement testing and receive financial aid assistance, all on the same day?

Join us for Get It Done - Get Ready for the Fall Semester events to complete the steps necessary to begin classes in September. Two events will be held on different days and locations to give you flexible options.

Choose between visiting Anna Whitten Hall in downtown Kalamazoo on Wednesday, Aug. 6 or the Texas Township Campus on Tuesday, Aug. 12. Hours are 2 to 6 p.m. both days.

Students who have been accepted to the college for the Fall 2025 semester will receive an invitation to attend. Others interested in attending can visit **www.kvcc.edu/getitdone** to RSVP. Pre-registration is required.

"These events have always served as a one-stop option for students, parents and community members interested in attending Kalamazoo Valley," explained Paige Eagan, provost and vice president for instruction and student services. "We want to give people options and make it as convenient as possible to attend our college."

During Get it Done, attendees can:

- Receive financial aid application assistance (apply for a FAFSA ID number at least three days prior to the event at **studentaid.gov**)
- Meet with an advisor or counselor
- Enroll in classes

Contemporary Social Problems, 2D Animation and Character Design and Scuba Diving are just a few of the more than 420 courses available for the Fall 2025 semester at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Classes start Sept. 3 and registration is now open.

For more information, call 269.488.4303 or email enrollment@kvcc.edu.

ALREADY REGISTERED FOR FALL CLASSES?

SIGN UP NOW FOR ORIENTATION

Students attending college for the first time are required to complete New Student Orientation prior to starting classes. At orientation, students will be introduced to the campus and services available to them and register for their first semester of classes.

Call 269.488.4040 or visit **www.kvcc.edu/orientation** to register.

FAST-TRACK YOUR DEGREE
WITH CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

Did you know that Kalamazoo Valley recognizes real-world knowledge by offering credit for prior learning? Students with eligible training, industry-standard certifications, professional work and life experience, volunteer hours, military service or any other knowledge equivalent to college-level learning could qualify to receive credit toward completing a degree or certificate at an accelerated rate.

"I would love to see every student who comes through our doors inquire about prior learning options," said LaJoyce Brooks, Kalamazoo Valley director of prior learning and apprenticeships. "Whether you're a recent high school graduate or someone with 25 years of workplace experience, there is a pathway for everyone."

Those interested in receiving credit for experiential learning complete a Prior Learning Assessment (PLA). The process is done through a variety of mediums, such as examinations administered at Kalamazoo Valley, industry-standard certifications evaluated by a field expert and portfolio assessments of employment or professional experiences. Those interested in completing a portfolio must demonstrate knowledge related to specific course requirements and competencies and provide evidence that college-level learning occurred.

"Students are able to demonstrate their existing knowledge and skills through prior learning credit," said Christine Gearig, Kalamazoo Valley computer information systems (CIS) instructor. "Many of our CIS courses align to an industry standard certification, so students can save time and money by receiving credit for any of those certifications they have earned and move ahead in their pathway to take higher-level courses, and, potentially finish their degree faster."

A minimal processing fee applies for all PLA alternatives, making the process a cost-effective way to earn college credit.

To be eligible to apply for prior learning credit, students must have a Kalamazoo Valley enrollment application on file, a Valley ID number, meet with an advisor, declare a program of study, be registered for courses in a current semester and schedule an appointment with the Prior Learning Assessment Office to discuss options.

Brooks encourages students to talk to their advisor to learn more about whether a PLA is the right fit for their academic journey. "Having a holistic conversation with your advisor about your educational goal is your commitment to progress and could provide you with an opportunity to convert knowledge into college credits."

Credit for prior learning is processed as transfer credit. Depending on the program of study, select students can receive up to 47 credits for an associate degree and 17 credits for a certificate.

Brooks said that credit for prior learning is a chance for employers and community partners to build stronger communities through educational opportunities to upskill and upscale the workforce.

"I invite community organizations and employers to reach out to Kalamazoo Valley for a conversation about credit for prior learning opportunities," she said.

Students interested in learning more about prior learning options are encouraged to make an appointment with their advisor by calling 269.488.4040.

Employers and community partners interested in learning more about PLA options for their employees can contact Brooks at lbrooks@kvcc.edu or 269.488.4873.

Kalamazoo Valley Community College
6767 West O Avenue, PO Box 4070
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 995
Kalamazoo, MI

2025 COLLEGE NIGHT
MONDAY OCTOBER 6
6 - 7:30 P.M.
www.kvcc.edu/collegenight

MICHIGAN COLLEGE FAIR COMMITTEE

KalamazooVALLEY community college
WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

TRAINING TOMORROW'S HEROES:
THE REAL-WORLD IMPACT OF KALAMAZOO VALLEY'S EMS PROGRAM

Christian Wang, a 2023 graduate of Kalamazoo Valley Community College, credits the college's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program with helping him pursue his goal of becoming a medical responder, a goal rooted in his desire to help others.

"When deciding what career I wanted to pursue, one thing was certain, I wanted to help people," Wang said. "This career felt like a perfect fit for me, and my time at Kalamazoo Valley was instrumental in preparing me for the work I now do every day."

According to EMS Program Director Daniel Benard, students in the program gain valuable experience through a blend of classroom instruction and hands-on learning in simulation activities that mirror the high-pressure situations they will face in the field and real-world clinical experiences.

"Our goal is to ensure students are as prepared as possible when they leave Kalamazoo Valley," Benard said. "We aim to both protect our community and provide students with a strong foundation for a successful and fulfilling career."

The EMS program offers several career pathways. Graduates may go on to become paramedics, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), or first responders who handle urgent situations on a daily basis. Wang said the program's realistic training scenarios and expert instructors helped him transition seamlessly from the classroom to his current role as a paramedic at Life EMS.

"I chose Kalamazoo Valley not only because it was local and affordable, but because the EMS program is outstanding," Wang said. "I built strong relationships and learned a lot. When I graduated and began working in the field, I felt ready for any kind of emergency and that made my transition into the workforce much smoother."

Kalamazoo Valley Emergency Medical Services (EMS) students perform paramedic emergency simulation

Benard encourages anyone with an interest in emergency medical services to consider applying.

"Being an EMT or paramedic is a rewarding career in and of itself. But it also opens doors to a wide range of careers in health care," he said. "We are committed to making sure every student receives a high-quality education so they can leave Valley confident and prepared to achieve their goals."

Emergency medical services students are trained to perform critical emergency medical intervention for both the traumatically injured and the acutely ill patient. Upon successful completion, Kalamazoo Valley's medical services programs qualify students to take the appropriate licensure exams, propelling them into a career in medical services.

THE HONORABLE HARVEST LECTURE SERIES RETURNS IN SEPTEMBER

Instructor Ben Brown delivers a lecture titled Subsistence Farming: A Story from the Past with Teachings for the Future

The free Honorable Lecture Series will once again be offered in the fall. The popular series explores ways we can come together to nurture and restore the Honorable Harvest in our communities and in our everyday lives.

The Indigenous practice of Honorable Harvest asks us to give in reciprocity for what we have been given, a central concept in the book "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Kalamazoo Valley Visiting Writer author Robin Wall Kimmerer. All lectures will take place on Tuesday evenings, starting on Sept. 23, at the Marilyn J. Schlack Culinary and Allied Health Building, located at 418 E. Walnut St. in downtown Kalamazoo. Pre-registration is not required.

Some of the topics for the fall series include: Doulaship and Caring for New Moms through Gardening, Tea as Ceremony, Restoring the Wisdom of Ancestors and the More-Than-Human Community and more. The full list of topics is available at **valleyhub.kvcc.edu/events**.

2025 ALUMNI ART SHOW WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Kalamazoo Valley's 14th annual Alumni Art Show was an opportunity to celebrate the college's talented alumni. Winning entries were announced during the exhibit opening at the college's Center for New Media on June 6. A total of 29 alumni artists submitted 69 works for inclusion in the juried show. Congratulations to the following artists:

BEST OF SHOW: CHAD SUTTON, "CONNECTION 1"
This is Sutton's first year entering the Alumni Art Show. He earned his degree in graphic design at Kalamazoo Valley in 2010.

DIRECTOR'S CHOICE: TRACY KLINESTEKER, "ROCKY SHORELINE"
This is Klinesteker's ninth year entering Kalamazoo Valley's Alumni Art Show and her work has earned awards in previous shows. She is a member of the Pastel Society of America, the International Association of Pastel Societies and the Great Lakes Pastel Society. Her work has earned awards at many venues, including the 2021 Adirondack Artists Guild Gallery, 2020 Southwest Florida Pastel Society and the Chroma 2019 Pastel Society of Colorado online show.

FIRST PLACE: ERICA BRADSHAW, "THE GUARDIAN"
Erica Bradshaw studied illustration and studio art in 2019. She is a graduate of Kendall College of Art & Design and Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Bradshaw's career is focused on making introspective art that educates and inspires thoughtful conversation about the conservation of our natural world. Her work has reached collectors around the world, has been featured in juried shows across Michigan and can be found throughout various murals, public art installations and shops nationwide.

SECOND PLACE: ANA HEDBERG, "ALL GOOD IN THE HOMEFRONT"
Hedberg earned her degree in industrial design at Kalamazoo Valley in 1992, then went on to Western Michigan University to earn a bachelor's in industrial design with a minor in art. In 2022, Hedberg's work was shown in the gallery of the Boston Public Library.

THIRD PLACE: JACQUELYN DEWATERS, "BLUE JAY #1"
Dewaters attended Kalamazoo Valley in 2025 and studied graphic design and illustration. She serves as a board member on the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo. DeWaters is a mixed media artist concentrating on photo-realistic illustrations and graphic design work.

HONORABLE MENTION: HEATHER BOERSMA, "THE FORAGER'S PURSE COLLECTION"
Boersma's work also earned an the Honorable Mention Award at the Kalamazoo Valley Alumni Art Show in 2024. She attended Kalamazoo Valley in 2008 and has degrees from Kalamazoo College, WMU and Grand Valley. Boersma entered her work "COVID Purse Diary" in ArtPrize in 2021. Her work has been part of juried exhibitions in Michigan, California and New Mexico.

The artwork will be on display through the end of July in the Arcus Gallery at Kalamazoo Valley's Center for New Media in downtown Kalamazoo.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ARIADNE J. MARKOU

Kalamazoo Valley alumna Ariadne J. Markou

Kalamazoo Valley alumna Ariadne J. Markou changed the trajectory of her education journey when she made the decision to attend Kalamazoo Valley.

"Before I joined the Honors Program at Valley, I was not even sure if higher education was the path for me. Valley's flexibility allowed me to engage with school in a way that worked around my life where I did not have to sacrifice anything for my education," Markou said.

The Kalamazoo native graduated from Valley with an associate of arts degree in general studies with honors.

"I cannot stress enough how much the Honors Program gave me my life back and drove me to find a purpose that I was passionate about," Markou said. "In the program, I was surrounded by a diverse cohort who brought so much insight and understanding to each class that we shared."

She was also a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges. She is grateful for all the program has done to benefit her educational experience.

Markou said her professors impacted her in more ways than one.

"The professors have done something completely remarkable in making a classroom feel like a home. Every opinion was valued and heard, and there was absolutely no room for judgment," she said. "Being in the Honors Program at Valley was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience that has completely altered my life course for the better."

Currently, Markou is enrolled at Kalamazoo College, majoring in anthropology and sociology with a minor in philosophy. She also works at the Family Division of the Kalamazoo Circuit Court as a judicial intern. The Valley alumna continues her community service, which she began during her time at Valley, by working in hospice.

She is the president of the Aspiring Law Students Organization at Kalamazoo College and is aiming to attend law school in Fall 2026.

"Ironically, I had no intent on being an attorney prior to being at Kalamazoo Valley. But, when I was enrolled in honors American government, I had written a paper on the work-for-hire doctrine in copyright law. The topic lit a fire under me and has since pushed me into a field that I love due to its complexity and problem-solving nature," Markou said.

Markou encourages those interested in pursuing higher education to take that first step.

"Valley provides an affordable route to getting an education that could very well change your life," Markou said. "Institutions like Kalamazoo Valley have the resources needed to put you on a path to success. You can achieve this success. You just have to go for it."

STUDENT JEAN MARIE MBALANDA AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

Jack Kent Cooke awardees pose for group photo

Kalamazoo Valley Community College student Jean Marie Mbalanda has been named one of just 90 recipients nationwide of the highly competitive Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship.

Mbalanda was selected from more than 1,600 applicants representing community colleges across the country. The award, which provides up to $55,000 per year for up to three years, will support Mbalanda's transfer to a four-year institution to complete a bachelor's degree with significantly reduced financial burden. Mbalanda graduated in April 2025 with an associate of science in engineering. He plans to continue his education in engineering at a four-year university.

"I'm deeply grateful for this opportunity," said Mbalanda. "My experience at Kalamazoo Valley has been instrumental in shaping my academic journey and personal growth. Being selected for this scholarship is a great honor, and I'm truly thrilled to receive it."

The 2025 cohort is one of the largest in the foundation's 25-year history, reaffirming its mission to create debt-free pathways to higher education for high-achieving students with financial need.

The Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship not only provides generous financial support, but also offers personalized academic advising, access to internship and study-abroad opportunities and membership in a thriving network of more than 3,400 Cooke Scholars and alumni.

This year's recipients were chosen from a semifinalist pool of 467 students. Applicants were evaluated on academic performance, unmet financial need, persistence and leadership qualities.

"Jean Marie exemplifies the drive and determination we strive to support at Kalamazoo Valley," said Kalamazoo Valley President L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D. "We are incredibly proud of this accomplishment and excited to see what the future holds."

For more information about the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation and the Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, visit **www.jkcf.org**.

KALAMAZOO VALLEY, GVSU CELEBRATE PARTNERSHIP

From left are Kalamazoo Valley's Nkenge Bergan and Paige Eagan and GVSU's Kara Van Dam and Felix Ngassa

Leaders at Kalamazoo Valley Community College and Grand Valley State University recently celebrated their enhanced partnership that gives students in Southwest Michigan a seamless path to a bachelor's degree.

During the spring signing event at Kalamazoo Valley's Texas Township Campus, leaders from both institutions discussed their history of collaboration, including new endeavors such as ATAIN (AI Transfer and Articulation Infrastructure Network), which utilizes artificial intelligence sources aimed to improve the credit transfer process that will benefit students.

As GVSU is now an official transfer partner with Kalamazoo Valley, leaders and faculty are exploring direct program pathways for transfer students, with focus areas to include horticulture/agriculture, education and health.

"This enhanced partnership with Grand Valley State University expands educational opportunities for our students by creating clearer transfer pathways between our institutions," said Kalamazoo Valley President L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D. "The collaboration not only strengthens our academic offerings but also directly supports Michigan's workforce development needs in critical areas such as health care, education, sustainability, biomedical sciences and criminal justice. We're proud to formalize this Valley-to-Valley relationship that will empower more learners to achieve their educational and career aspirations right here in our greater West Michigan region."

Jodi Rogers can attest to the early connections between Kalamazoo Valley and GVSU. Rogers, senior manager of communications at Kellanova, is an alumna of both institutions and called this partnership a "fantastic opportunity for students in our region."

"It makes higher learning more accessible and flexible, giving students the chance to stay connected to their communities while continuing their education," Rogers said. "By working together, Kalamazoo Valley and GVSU are helping to remove barriers and create clear, supportive pathways for students to reach their academic and career goals."

For more information, visit **www.kvcc.edu/transfer**.

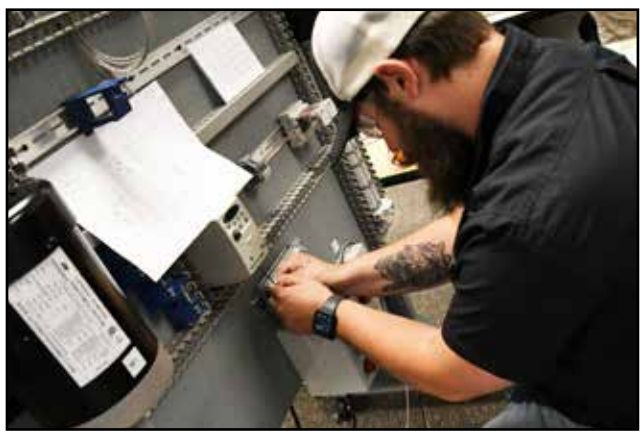
VALLEY ADVANTAGE™
Learn. Grow. Thrive.

GET THE VALLEY ADVANTAGE
FREE PROGRAM OFFERS STUDENTS OPPORTUNITY TO PREPARE FOR COLLEGE, EARN CASH

Seats still available. Program starts Aug. 4.

www.kvcc.edu/valley**advantage**

UPCOMING CAREER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



Kalamazoo Valley Community College provides engaging learning opportunities for community members of all ages. These non-credit offerings include a variety of enrichment classes, corporate training sessions, culinary instruction and professional development. Register at **www.kvcc.edu/programs/corporate_training/**.

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT
ADVANCED PROJECT MANAGEMENT
THURSDAYS | JULY 10 - 17 | 9:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M. | $550
This hands-on workshop is for professionals who want to take their project management skills to the next level. Participants will learn how to prioritize the right projects, manage costs, build quality into every stage and apply techniques like stakeholder management, conflict resolution, and negotiation. Led by PMP-certified instructors, the course also qualifies for 14 contact hours toward PMP or CAPM certification.

LEADERSHIP: COACHING ON THE FRONT LINE
TUESDAYS | AUG. 5 - 26 | 8 A.M. - NOON | $750
This course will help leaders improve in their evolving role and learn to build leadership skills through the use of feedback, communication, coaching, improving and performance. Designed for anyone in a supervisory role. Participants will become skilled at using several job aids, such as the human performance model, SPEAK, SBI, GRACE and the basic coaching model.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION EXAM PREPARATION
THURSDAY | JULY 24 | 9:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M. | $1,375
The PMP Exam Preparation workshop is designed to help you pass the PMP® or CAPM® certification exam with confidence. In this one-day course, you'll learn how to prepare effectively, find the best practice questions and break down exam questions to select the right answers. The course also highlights key lessons from the PMBOK® Guide and the Exam Content Outline so you know exactly what to focus on. It's practical, concise and aligned with the latest exam standards. Plus, you'll earn seven contact hours toward your certification requirements.

ESSENTIALS OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT
THURSDAYS | SEPT. 18 - 25 | 9:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M. | $550
The Essentials of Project Management class is all about giving you the tools you need to successfully manage projects in any environment. Over two days, you'll learn how to plan, execute and close projects effectively while managing risks and keeping stakeholders engaged. The course covers key topics like work breakdown structures, risk management and critical path analysis, helping you understand how to navigate the challenges every project brings. Earn 14 contact hours toward PMP certification or PDUs if you're already certified.

MIOSHA INSTITUTE
MIOSHA PART 21 POWERED INDUSTRIAL TRUCKS: WHAT EVERY TRAINER AND OPERATOR MUST KNOW
WEDNESDAY | OCT. 15 | 9 A.M. - 4 P.M. | $130
This course covers the training and operating requirements for powered industrial trucks in general industry workplaces. Safety topics include: training program implementation; operator selection, training, testing and permitting; inspection procedures; safe work practices; retention of training and maintenance records; and identification of types of powered industrial trucks. Occupational health topics include information on carbon monoxide, ventilation controls, personal protective equipment and emergency eye flush and shower facilities.

MECHATRONICS, MECHANICAL & MAINTENANCE
ADVANCED ELECTRICAL AND AUTOMATED CONTROL CONCEPTS
THURSDAYS | JULY 10 - 17 | 8 A.M. - 5 P.M. | $610
In this hands-on course, participants will learn advanced electrical and automated control concepts. The participant will demonstrate comprehension by performing tasks on actual electrical and electronic controls of industrial equipment. The Electrical Safety and Basic Electrical courses are prerequisites for this course.

INTRODUCTION TO ROBOTIC HANDLING TOOL OPERATION
TUESDAYS | JULY 22 - 29 | 8 A.M. - 5 P.M. | $610
In this hands-on course, you will learn how to safely operate a six-axis FANUC robot and manually control it in various modes such as Joint & World. Participants will become familiar with opening and editing programs, commanding I/O, work with Position Registers, as well as creating some of their own basic material handling programs. The audience for this course is operators, maintenance technicians and engineers assisting with the line.

SENSORS AND AUTOMATED ELECTROMECHANICAL DEVICES
THURSDAYS | JULY 24 - 31 | 8 A.M. - 5 P.M. | $610
In this hands-on course, participants will learn to operate and diagnose automated electromechanical devices and sensors in the Groves Center Technical Training Lab. The participant will demonstrate comprehension by performing tasks on actual electrical and electronic controls of industrial equipment. The Electrical Safety, Basic Electrical and Advanced Electrical and Automated Control Concepts courses are prerequisites for this course.

INTRODUCTION TO COLLABORATIVE ROBOTICS
TUESDAYS | AUG. 5 - 12 | 8 A.M. - 5 P.M. | $610
This course is designed to guide participants on how to operate FANUC's Collaborative CRX robot. Participants will learn the similarities and core differences between a standard FANUC robot compared to the CRX. Through a variety of hands-on activities, participants will learn how to use many of the new features that assist in programming material handling operations that are unique to the CRX line.

PLC PROGRAMMING AND INSTALLATION
THURSDAYS | AUG. 7 - 14 | 8 A.M. - 5 P.M. | $610
In this hands-on course, participants will learn how to install, set up and write a program using Ladder Logic on a Programmable Control System (PLC). The participant will demonstrate comprehension by installing a PLC into an existing system and program functioning inputs and outputs via Ladder Logic.

INTRODUCTION TO INDUSTRIAL PRINT READING
TUESDAY | AUG. 19 | 8 A.M. - 3 P.M. | $185
This program is designed for participants with no drafting background. Participants will learn drafting and blueprint reading procedures, alphabet of lines, auxiliary views, assembly drawings, title blocks, drawing changes and standard symbols. Emphasis is placed on actual industrial conditions and applications.

PROGRAMMABLE CONTROL SYSTEMS (PLC) TROUBLESHOOTING
THURSDAY | AUG. 21 | 8 A.M. - 5 P.M. | $290
In this hands-on course, participants will learn how to work with a Programmable Control System (PLC) in the Groves Center Training Lab. Pre-requisite: Electrical Safety and Basic Electrical.

CAREER ACADEMIES

LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY
AUG. 11 - DEC. 11 | GROVES CAMPUS | $8,300
The Law Enforcement Academy is an 18-week, full-time program, typically scheduled Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. In addition, some training occurs on nights and weekends as needed.

PHLEBOTOMY ACADEMY
SEPT. 2025 | MARILYN J. SCHLACK CULINARY AND ALLIED HEALTH BUILDING | $1,400
This 10-week academy is in partnership with Bronson Methodist Hospital. Students train to work as phlebotomy technicians and prepare to gain national certification through the American Society for Clinical Pathology.

CORRECTIONS OFFICER ACADEMY
OCT. 13 - NOV. 7 | GROVES CAMPUS | $1,200
This is a Michigan Sheriffs Coordinating and Training Council (MSCTC) approved, 160-hour certification program for correctional personnel supervising inmates in county jails. This four-week program focuses on obtaining the skills necessary to maintain the safety and security of a correctional facility. A total of 10 credits will be awarded by Kalamazoo Valley Community College to those who successfully complete the academy.

PATIENT CARE ACADEMY
SEPT. 2025 AND JAN. 2026 GROVES CAMPUS | $1,200
Students who successfully complete the academy are eligible to take the state of Michigan examination to become a certified nurse assistant (CNA). The program, held on nights and weekends for seven weeks, provides classroom instruction, hands-on practice in a lab, real world clinical experience and acute care observation experience at a local hospital.

WIND TURBINE TECHNICIAN ACADEMY
JAN. 6 - JUNE 19, 2026
GROVES CAMPUS | $15,000
Focused on specific, hands-on competencies, this unique training model moves students from the classroom to learning labs and into the field quickly. Trainee success requires a self-directed learning style, a desire to learn through hands-on practice and a dedication to become a world-class technician in the wind industry.

For more information about any of Kalamazoo Valley's Career Academies, contact careeracademies@kvcc.edu, call 269.353.1282, visit **www.kvcc.edu/programs/careeracademies** or scan code.

HUMAN RESOURCES
HR CERTIFICATION EXAM PREPARATION
MONDAYS AND TUESDAYS | AUG. 25 - NOV. 10
5:30 P.M. - 8 P.M. | $1,340
An intensive 36-hour program incorporates lectures, discussions and tests to learn the HR body of knowledge. It is designed primarily for HR professionals seeking HR certification. The course materials utilized are the Human Resource Certification Preparation (HRCP) learning system. Some of the features and benefits include:

- Five modules correlating with the Body of Knowledge
- More than 600 HR QuickStudy Flash Cards color-coded for each module
- Online practice tests with over 800 questions
- Interactive discussions about real-life situations faced by HR professionals

For more information about corporate training opportunities, contact Maddie Isch at misch0311@kvcc.edu, call 269.353.1250 or scan the code.

FALL COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES

Kalamazoo Valley Community College provides engaging learning opportunities for community members of all ages. These non-credit offerings include a variety of enrichment classes, corporate training sessions, culinary instruction and professional development. Register at **www.kvcc.edu/community**.

FOOD SMARTS
TUESDAYS | JULY 15 - AUG. 5 | 4 - 5 p.m. | FREE
ANNA WHITTEN HALL
In partnership with Bronson Methodist Hospital, this program is free to Kalamazoo Valley students. Learn what foods to use for balanced meals that are healthy for you and your family. Practice how to read food labels and ingredient lists. Learn how to plan, buy and make healthy meals on a budget. Get free fruits and vegetables weekly from Valley Hub. Taste a new and healthy recipe each week!

DISCOVERING A GREEN SUMMER WITH MS. PAT
JULY 23, AUG. 20, SEPT. 24, OCT. 22 | 6 - 7:30 P.M. | $40
MARILYN J. SCHLACK CULINARY AND ALLIED HEALTH BUILDING
Join chef Ms. Pat for a series of evening culinary strolls discovering summer greens. These demonstrations of a variety of greens are passionately prepared as our instructor guides participants through decades of delicious discoveries from the garden to the kitchen. These sessions offer something for everyone with a different savory meal each month, so save your spot today. Join us for a tasting good time!

BEEKEEPING 103
TUESDAYS | AUG. 12 - SEPT. 23 (NO CLASS ON SEPT. 2) | 6 - 8 P.M. | $140
FOOD INNOVATION CENTER
This last section of the four-part series in beekeeping will look at the life of a honeybee colony as it prepares for winter. Overwintering practices will be discussed, along with fall and winter duties of the beekeeper. We will continue our examination of bee biology and discuss other products of the hive.

BECOME A BUMBLEBEE COMMUNITY SCIENTIST
SATURDAY | AUG. 16 | 10 A.M. - 1 P.M. | $10
FOOD INNOVATION CENTER
During this session, we will discuss bumblebee biology, diversity and conservation in Michigan and spend time outside actively practicing data collection techniques. Meet other bumblebee enthusiasts, improve your bumblebee ID skills and learn bumblebee monitoring protocols.

CULINARY WREATHS
SATURDAY | SEPT. 6 | 10 A.M. - 1 P.M. | $40
FOOD INNOVATION CENTER
Create a culinary wreath with an assortment of herbs and botanicals grown at the Food Innovation Center. Twisting natural materials into a ring-shaped form has been one of humankind's earliest expressions. This nine-inch wreath can be displayed in the kitchen and used to season favorite dishes.

SEED STEWARDSHIP: HAND POLLINATION AND SEED HARVEST
SATURDAY | SEPT. 20 | 10 A.M. - 1 P.M. | $40
FOOD INNOVATION CENTER
Grow your seed-saving skills! You'll learn hands-on techniques for harvesting seeds from wet-fruited crops like tomatoes and dry-fruited crops like beans. We'll cover how to select seeds that are especially well-adapted to your growing conditions, isolation and hand-pollination techniques for cross-pollinating plants and cleaning and storing your seeds for maximum viability and vigor.

HANDS-ON STRAW BALE AND TIMBER FRAME NATURAL BUILDING
SATURDAYS | SEPT. 20 - NOV. 22 | 10 A.M. - 1 P.M. | $750
SOLFED FARMS 4420 W F AVE.
KALAMAZOO, MI 49009
This 10-week course empowers participants to build a small agricultural structure (<600 sq. ft.) using sustainable techniques. Through weekly hands-on sessions at SolFed Farms, students will learn to construct a straw bale, roundwood timber frame building with rubble-trench foundations, natural plasters and hybrid clay tile/living roofs. By course end, participants will be able to explain natural building principles, safely use traditional tools, assemble timber joinery and evaluate design choices like insulation vs. breathability. Ideal for farmers, DIYers and sustainability enthusiasts. No prior experience needed, just readiness to get muddy and build community!

GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE
SATURDAY | SEPT. 27 | 10 A.M. - NOON | $30
FOOD INNOVATION CENTER
Native plants play a necessary role in local ecosystems. You can garden for wildlife in a space of any size. Learn common native trees, grasses and flowers, and discuss how to incorporate these plants into your gardening practices. Learn different seed germination methods and make your own kit to take home.

VISIBLE MENDING
TUESDAYS | OCT. 7 - NOV. 18 | 6 - 8 P.M. | $150
FOOD INNOVATION CENTER
Do you have a favorite shirt or pair of jeans with a hole in them, stains or a weak spot? Do you hate the idea of sending them to the landfill? Here's your solution: Transform your holey clothing into a work of slow fashion art! If you can thread a needle and sew on a button, you've got the skills you need. Join us in this six-week exploration into the world of mending. We will learn the mending of socks, jeans and other pants, shirts and more, using techniques of weaving, embroidery and knitting. Minimal sewing skills are required.

AT HOME HERBALISM
THURSDAYS | OCT. 16 - NOV. 20 | 6 - 8:30 P.M. | $180
FOOD INNOVATION CENTER
Herbs are a traditional source of nutrition and healing. Students will explore the impact of ancestral plants, sources of Materia medica, ethical and sustainable foraging techniques, as well as recipes for building a home apothecary. Engage in on-campus plant walks to discuss bioregional, cultivated and seasonal plants.

MADE IN THE SHADE
SATURDAY | OCT. 18 | 10 A.M. - NOON | $40
FOOD INNOVATION CENTER
Cooling shade is increasingly valuable in our warming climate. Learn how to love your shady spaces and create a low-light oasis at home. We will highlight native and introduced plants that thrive in the shade and a variety of soil conditions. Participants will learn how to use basic design tools and draft a plan for their own outdoor areas.

HOUSE PLANT PROPAGATION AND CARE
SATURDAY | OCT. 25 | 10 A.M. - 1 P.M. | $40
FOOD INNOVATION CENTER
House plants have many benefits, including improving air quality, reducing stress and adding beauty to your living environment. Learn how to select and care for house plants that are suitable for your space and time. Learn how to share your favorite plants with friends and family with various propagation techniques. Take home several cuttings to grow and enjoy.

MAKE YOUR OWN HERBAL TEA MIX
SATURDAY | NOV. 8 | 10 A.M. - 1 P.M. | $50
FOOD INNOVATION CENTER
Herbal tea is one of the most beloved beverages around the world. In this class, you will learn about the benefits of drinking herbal teas, the art of making your own tea blends, and have an opportunity to taste a variety of herbal teas grown at the Food Innovation Center.

TEEN BATTLE CHEF
DATES TBD | FREE
If you are a high school student attending Comstock or Kalamazoo Public schools, you may be eligible for the next cohort of Teen Battle Chef. In this free eight-week program, high school students work in teams to 'battle' their peers in weekly challenges - preparing delicious dishes to enjoy. The final session is a presentation 'battle' with students' families and leaders from across Kalamazoo are invited to join and celebrate.

Complete the poll to help us determine the next schedule.

MERIT SCHOLARS ANNOUNCED

Kalamazoo Valley's 2025 Merit Scholarships were recently awarded to 60 high school seniors. The $2,000 Merit Scholarship is given to top performing Michigan high school scholars who can use the funds during their first two semesters at Kalamazoo Valley. This year's class of winners had an average GPA of 3.71 and represent 28 different high schools (including three home-schooled programs) in 10 different counties. Congratulations to the following students:

Allegan High School
Gabriel Kelly

Cadillac High School
Eli Main

Centreville High School
Kali Evans
Matthew Swanwick

Comstock High School
Isabelle Jorgensen
Ava Main

Decatur High School
Abigail Kopec

Galesburg-Augusta High School
Hailee Themins

Gobles High School
Lily Heintzman
Caleb O'Connor

Grand Ledge High School
Adyson Fulton

Hackett Catholic Prep High School
Thea Husovska

Hamilton High School
Brandon Brouwer

Holland High School
Jacob Torres

Holt High School
Sophia Anderson

Homeschool
Erica Ambroso
Matthew Bergren
Devon Sonneville

Jonesville High School
Jesse Becker

Kalamazoo Central High School
Lin Alhasan
Evelin Rivera-Jimenez

Kalamazoo Christian High School
Lydiamei Lenning
Nathan Pols
Maya Schnell

Lawton High School
Amanda Aumaugher

Loy Norrix High School
Haneef Hampton

Mattawan High School
Jayden Barker
John Byholt
Joshua Grace
Brody Houseman

Otsego High School
Carsen Bydash
Alyssa Lindsey
Shyane Parfait
Mya Schmidt

Parchment High School
Lauren Cardinal

Paw Paw High School
Landon Brown
Barron Marinch

Plainwell High School
Brynn Huberty
Alexa Krywosinski
Sarah Lagenour

Portage Central High School
Naomi Fairchild
Ellery Kinney
Kendal Pieper
Jackson Rikkers
Calista Rock

Portage Northern High School
Austin Cowgill
Alex Dunfield
Aeson Gonzales
Angel Hernandez
Abigail Osborn
Brendon Ruppert
Andrew Wagster

Rochester High School
Dominic Gadlage

Three Rivers High School
Tori Thorbjornsen

Vicksburg High School
Arabellah Crist
Abby Ford
Zachary Kline
Aleayah Kosanke
Corinne Wilson

Wayland Union High School
Ava Longstreet

Scan code for more information about scholarships.

VALLEY NAMES ITS TWO TOP STUDENT-ATHLETES FOR 2025

Caley Kerwin and JJ Manion

An exceptional dual-sport athlete and an outstanding baseball player are the 2025 winners of Kalamazoo Valley Community College's highest honor for student-athletes, the coveted Dale B. Lake Presidential Award.

Caley Kerwin, a player on the softball and women's basketball teams, and JJ Manion, a talented right-handed pitcher, were not only standouts on the field and court, but also in the classroom. Kerwin upheld a 3.6 GPA and Manion had a 3.5 GPA during their time at the college. Both graduated in April.

Kerwin graduated with two associate degrees, one in education in the fall and the second in liberal arts in April. A guard for the women's basketball team, her fellow players voted her their 2025 Defensive Player of the Year. In her free time, the Schoolcraft High School graduate volunteers with children at her church. Kerwin will start her bachelor degree studies at Western Michigan University this fall.

Manion pursued liberal arts and nursing at Valley. The Kalamazoo Christian High School grad was a starter for the last two years for the Cougars, and made team captain his final year. He has earned multiple athletic accolades, including All-MCCAA Baseball (Michigan Community College Athletic Association), All-MCCAA First Team Western Conference, All-MCCAA Freshman Team, National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region 12 Division II All-Region and MCCAA 2025 Pitcher of the Week two times. Manion will attend Grand Valley State University this fall, where he will play baseball.

Each winner receives a plaque and will be added to the Dale B. Lake plaque displayed within the Athletic office at Kalamazoo Valley.

For more sports news, visit **athletics.kvcc.edu**.

HISTORY-MAKING BASKETBALL PLAYER EARNS MAJOR STATE AWARD

Kalamazoo Valley basketball phenom and recent graduate Joey Liedel has been named Michigan Community College Athletic Association (MCCAA) Dick Shilts Male Student-Athlete of the Year for 2024 - 2025.

The news of the award comes on the heels of the announcement a few months ago of Liedel's selection as MCCAA Western Conference Defensive Player of the Year for the same time period. During the past season, Liedel, a guard, reached the rare career college milestone of 1,000 points scored over the course of his time at Valley.

He also holds the distinction of shattering the college's 44-year-old record for the most points scored by a player in a single game. He achieved the feat when he scored 51 points in a non-Conference home game on Dec. 4, 2023.

The Dick Shilts Male Student-Athlete of the Year award honors Dick Shilts, who served as Valley's athletic director for many years and was MCCAA's longest-serving president. Annually, the MCCAA awards one female and one male student-athlete as the Dick Shilts Student-Athlete of the Year to recognize exceptional accomplishments in their sport, in the classroom and in co-curricular endeavors.

Liedel will attend the University of Detroit Mercy this fall, where he will play basketball. He is a graduate of Mason Senior High School in Erie, Michigan.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE Kalamazoo VALLEY Museum

COLORFUL COLLECTIONS | NOW - AUG. 31
This new exhibit features items from the permanent collection of the Kalamazoo Valley Museum displayed in a rainbow of hues. Delve into the color spectrum like never before as you enjoy some of the brightest and boldest examples from the KVM's collection.
Designed by the Kalamazoo Valley Museum

THE ART OF ADVERTISING | NOW - AUG. 31
Highlighting nostalgic signs and advertisements from local businesses from the permanent collection of the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, "The Art of Advertising" offers up an eclectic mix of advertising paraphernalia from bygone eras.
Created by the Kalamazoo Valley Museum

WALLACE & GROMIT AND SHAUN THE SHEEP: SHEAR GENIUS! NOW - AUG. 31
Step into the environments of Wallace & Gromit and Shaun the Sheep to explore their contraptions, antics and escapades through dramatic play and interactive opportunities.
Wallace & Gromit™ and Shaun the Sheep™: Shear Genius! was created by Minnesota Children's Museum and Aardman Animations™ Limited © 2025

DANCING WITH LIFE: MEXICAN MASKS | SEPT. 27, 2025 - JAN. 4, 2026
Explore the rich festival culture of Mexico through historic and contemporary masks. The exhibition centers around the work of the mask makers and dancers themselves through written and recorded interviews, including bilingual Spanish and English texts.
Dancing with Life: Mexican Masks was curated and organized by Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture and is toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, D.C.

Felipe de Jesús Horta Tera (b. 1961) Devil, 2021

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is operated by Kalamazoo Valley Community College and is governed by its Board of Trustees. Admission is free.

SUPPORT STUDENT DREAMS AT THE 2025 OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING EVENT

Join us at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18 for an evening of community, cuisine and celebration at the 2025 Opportunities for Education (OFE) Scholarship Fundraising Event at Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Food Innovation Center, located at 224 E. Crosstown Parkway in downtown Kalamazoo.

This annual gathering promises an unforgettable night under a big tent where friendship, food and philanthropy come together to support students.

Some of the region's most popular restaurants will be featured, along with student and faculty chefs from the college's culinary and brewing programs. Guests will enjoy a walk-around tasting where they can sample signature dishes plus beer, wine and other beverages. Tours among the vegetables, flowers and herbs growing in the Food Innovation Center's greenhouse will also be available.

Proceeds from the OFE event directly benefit the Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Foundation scholarship fund, helping students achieve their educational goals and bringing fresh energy to our region. Your support makes a meaningful difference.

For tickets and more information, visit **www.kvcc.edu/foundation**.

Kalamazoo Valley Community College
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lucinda M. Stinson *Chairperson*
Dawn M. DeLuca *Vice Chairperson*
Kathy Purnell, J.D., Ph.D. *Secretary*
Mary T. Gustas *Treasurer*
Jeffrey W. Patton *Trustee*
Daniel D. Pontius *Trustee*
Sherry Thomas-Cloud *Trustee*
L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D. *President*

KV Focus is a publication of Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Questions about the publication may be directed to the college's Marketing Department at 269.488.4821.

It is the policy of Kalamazoo Valley Community College not to discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, height, weight, or marital status in its programs, services, employment or activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Vice President of Campus Planning and Operations, 6767 West O Avenue, P. O. Box 4070, Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070, 269.488.4434.

Editor:
Erin Dominianni
Managing Editor:
Earlene McMichael
Designer:
Robyn Pargeon Hughes
Photographers:
Michelle Weisenberg
Samuel Zomer
Contributors:
Erin Dominianni
Kaylie Crowe
Khadijah Kabbani
Earlene McMichael

KalamazooVALLEY community college

www.kvcc.edu

ARCADIA COMMONS CAMPUS
202 North Rose Street
269.373.7800

BRONSON HEALTHY LIVING CAMPUS
418 East Walnut Street
269.548.3200

GROVES CAMPUS
7107 Elm Valley Drive
269.353.1253

KALAMAZOO VALLEY MUSEUM
230 North Rose Street
269.373.7990

TEXAS TOWNSHIP CAMPUS
6767 West O Avenue
269.488.4400

PO Box 4070 | Kalamazoo, MI | 49003-4070

Connect With Us!
@KzooValley
@KalamazooValley
facebook.com/KalamazooValley
linkedin.com/school/kalamazoo-valley-community-college